



City of Houston  
Planning & Development Department  
Code Enforcement Division

Beginning October 11, 2004 The City of Houston Code Enforcement Division will start requiring the installation of AUTOMATIC EXCESS FLOW GAS SHUT-OFF (EFGS) DEVICES.

## What is it?

An automatic excess flow gas shut-off device is a listed valve or device that is activated by broken, disconnected gas lines or overpressure surges which occur when equipment fails.

## Where does it go?

New Construction- EFGS shall be installed before the flexible fuel connections for gas appliances.

Remodeling- When a gas appliance requires disconnection from the gas supply, for removal and re-installation of an appliance or for new appliance connection.

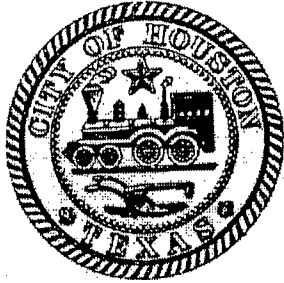
## Who needs it?

All Residential, Assembly, Institutional and Educational Occupancies shall be required to install the EFGS on gas appliances.

## Who can install it?

When a permit is required for the installation of such device the device shall be installed by a Master Plumber. The device shall be installed in accordance with the City of Houston Construction Codes and the manufacturer's instructions.

Effective October 11th



**CITY OF HOUSTON  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU  
HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**



**LIFE SAFETY BUREAU (LSB) STANDARD 20, Rev. 01  
AUTOMATIC EXCESS FLOW GAS SHUT-OFF DEVICES**

**SUPERCEDES:        LSB Standard 20  
                             Dated: 14 June, 2004**

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DATE: EFFECTIVE 10-11-04

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LIFE SAFETY BUREAU (LSB) STANDARDS ARE ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON FIRE CODE. THEY ARE SUBJECT TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTIONS COVERING – ALTERNATIVE MATERIALS AND METHODS, MODIFICATIONS, AND BOARD OF APPEALS.

# LSB STANDARD 20, Rev. 01

## AUTOMATIC EXCESS FLOW GAS SHUT-OFF DEVICES

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**LSB STANDARD 20, Rev. 01**  
**AUTOMATIC EXCESS FLOW GAS SHUT-OFF DEVICES**  
**(Houston Fire Code Section 603.9.3)**

**SECTION 1 --- GENERAL**

**1.1 Scope**

Installation of automatic excess flow gas shut-off devices for propane and natural gas systems as required by the *Fire Code* within the City of Houston.

**1.2 Purpose**

This standard shall provide guidance on the requirement for installation of automatic excess flow gas shut-off devices.

**SECTION 2 --- DEFINITIONS**

**2.1 Automatic excess flow gas shut-off (EFGS) device**

A listed valve or device that is activated by broken, disconnected gas lines or overpressure surges, which can occur when equipment has failed. The design of the device shall provide a proven automatic method to provide expedient and safe gas shut-off in an emergency. The design of the device shall provide for automatic reset of the device.

**2.2 Gas Appliance**

An appliance that consumes a fuel gas as a means to produce heat.

**SECTION 3 --- REQUIREMENTS**

**3.1 Where required**

**3.1.1 New Construction**

Automatic excess flow gas shut-off (EFGS) devices that are listed and approved for such use shall be installed before the flexible fuel connections for gas appliances where installed in all new construction.

**Exception:** An EFGS device is not required on the flexible gas connector where a gas appliance is being used for temporary connection in a classroom or laboratory, where the appliance may be used for short-term educational, testing or research work.

**3.1.2 Remodeling**

EFGS devices shall be installed when remodeling where a gas-fueled appliance requires disconnection from the gas supply, for removal and re-installation of an appliance or for new appliance connection.

**3.1.3 Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST) System**

Where a CSST system is installed and steel pipe is used from the meter to a manifold, the EFGS device shall be installed at each manifold outlet and shall not be required at the appliance. If CSST is used throughout the system an EFGS device shall be located at the meter and before the appliance.

### **3.2 Installers**

When a permit is required for installation of automatic excess flow gas shut-off devices, the devices are to be installed in accordance with the City of Houston *Construction Codes* and the manufacturer's instructions.

### **3.3 Removal and discontinued use**

Where installed the EFGS device shall remain in place and not be removed unless replaced with another similarly approved device. Where a gas supply line is removed from service, the device shall be removed and the connection capped in an approved manner.

### **3.4 Testing and maintenance**

Automatic excess flow gas shut-off devices shall be of such construction as not to require any routine maintenance or testing for the manufactured life of the device. Should a device ever fail to operate properly after installation in accordance with the manufacturer's installation guidelines, the device is to be replaced with another similarly approved EFGS device. If an appliance gas supply line with an installed excess gas flow shut-off device is disconnected at the gas supply line, the EFGS should be checked visually for obstructions, debris and proper seating of the valve, prior to the reinstallation to the gas supply line.

## REFERENCE

1. City of Houston *Fire Code*, International Fire Code, 2000 edition, as amended.
2. City of Houston *Construction Codes*, 2000 editions, as amended